Bilateral Aviation Agreement

144. SHRI PREM CHAND GUPTA: Will the Minister of CIVIL AVIATION be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that Government have concluded a series of bilateral aviation agreements with no major advantage to the Indian side while foreign carriers have walked away with substantial benefits; and

(b) if so, what are the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF CIVIL AVIATION (SHRI RAJIV PRATAP RUDI): (a) and (b) Bilateral air service negotiations are concluded on the basis of balance of advantage and reciprocity to either side. Besides factors like tourism promotion, facilitation of commerce and trade, improving air connectivity of India with rest of the world, commercial advantage to the national carriers are taken into account before concluding such agreements.

Multiple-laning of air corridors

145. SHRI R.P. GUPTA: Will the Minister of CIVIL AVIATION be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that recently the Airports Authority of India has introduced multiple-laning of air corridors passing over the country;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether it is also a fact that the Indian Air Force have expressed reservations on the new routes because of the IAF bases spread across the country, especially in the northern and eastern regions; and

(d) if so, the details of the steps taken to adequately address the security concerns of the IAF?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF CIVIL AVIATION (SHRI RAJIV PRATAP RUDI): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) The system of multiple-laning of air corridors has been named EMARSSH (The Revised ATS Route Structure - Asia to Middle East/ Europe-South of the Himalayas). This was implemented on

28th November, 2002. In this system, some old air corridors have been deleted and about 20 new air corridors have been introduced. The new routes cover the entire Bay of Bengal, Landmass of India and a large portion of Arabian Sea.

(c) Yes, Sir.

(d) Indian Air Force (IAF) have not agreed to introduce new routes to link Jalalabad with Samar near Amritsar overflying Hindon and Ambala Local Flying Areas and Jabalpur to Rahimyar Khan in Pakistan overflying Jodhpur Local Flying Area of IAF. Therefore, the new routes have been re-aligned within the civil airspace.

Removal of anomalies in time table of IA and Alliance Air

146. SHRI DRUPAD BORGOHAIN: Will the Minister of CIVIL AVIATION be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government have any plan to remove anomalies in time table of Indian Airlines and Alliance Air flights as regards connectivity from Delhi to different stations of Assam like Jorhat, Dibrugarh, Silchar, Tejpur and others *via* Guwahati; and

(b) if so, whether CD 7891 would be extended upto Jorhat and Dibrugarh from Guwahati?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF CIVIL AVIATION (SHRI RAJIV PRATAP RUDI): (a) and (b) Silchar is at present linked with Delhi by Alliance Air's connecting flights to/from Guwahati and Kolkata.

Jorhat, Dibrugarh and Tezpur are connected with Delhi by Indian Airlines/Alliance Air flights to/from Kolkata. Shortage of aircraft capacity and scheduling constraints do not permit connectivity of these stations with Delhi *via* Guwahati and extension of CD 7891 operating on the sectors Delhi/Patna/Guwahati upto Jorhat and Dibrugarh.

Discount on domestic fares by AI

147. SHRI SANTOSH BAGRODIA: Will the Minister of CIVIL AVIATION be pleased to state:

(a) whether the recent move by Air India to reduce the airfares on domestic flights is only for a short time;